Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 PA-02 PRS-01 SSM-05 /098 W
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R 181503Z APR 77 FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5779

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS:ELAB,ECON, IS

SUBJECT: SUMMARY: CURRENT LABOR SITUATION

1. THE GOVERNMENT AND THE HISTADRUT SIGNED AN AGREEMENT ON APRIL 17 GRANTING WORKERS IN GOVERNMENT OPERATED INDUSTRIES A 4.75 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE, THUS FOLLOWING AN EARLIER HISTADRUT AGREEMENT WITH HISTADRUT-OPERATED KOOR INDUSTRIES TO GRANT KOOR WORKERS A 4.75 PERCENT INCREASE AND THE GOI AGREEMENT WITH PORT WORKERS TO SETTLE THEIR STRIKE ON A 5 PERCENT INCREASE BASIS. THESE INCREASES COME ON TOP OF AN 11.5 PERCENT COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR ALL WORKERS EFFECTIVE AS OF APRIL 1.

2. THIS LEAVES WORKERS IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY AS THE ONLY MAJOR GROUP WHICH HAS NOT RECEIVED A SUPPLEMENTARY WAGE ADJUSTMENT OVER AND ABOVE THE INCREASES PROVIDED BY THE 1976-77 NATIONAL AGREEMENTS FOR THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS. THE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION IS STILL HOLDING OUT, OFFERING A ONE TIME BONUS INSTEAD OF A WAGE INCREASE. THE METAL AND TEXTILE WORKERS, AS THE TWO KEY UNIONS AFFECTED, HAVE SO FAR REFUSED TO ACCEPT THIS OFFER. HOWEVER, CONSIDERING THAT MORE THAN HALF OF ALL INDUSTRIAL WORKERS ARE NOW RECEIVING ADDITIONAL INCREASES, UNCLASSIFIED

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THE MANUFACTURERS ARE NOT LIKELY TO RISK STRIKES BY HOLDING OUT MUCH LONGER.

3. ASIDE FROM THE MARINE OFFICERS' STRIKE, DISCUSSED IN SEPTEL, THE PRINCIPAL DISPUTES PENDING ARE THOSE OF:
A. DOCTORS IN KUPAT HOLIM CLINICS WHO STAGED ONE DAY PROTEST STRIKE ON APRIL 17 DEMANDING THE SAME BENEFITS

FOR SPECIALIST QUALIFICATIONS, NIGHT SHIFTS AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AS HOSPITAL DOCTORS; B. TECHNICIANS, WHO LIKE THE ENGINEERS, WANT SPECIAL SALARY SUPPLEMENTS FOR THEIR EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS. (THEGOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE, BUT HAS NOT YET IMPLEMENTED THE AGREEMENT); AND C. EL AL GROUND REWS WHO STAGED SLOWDOWNS OVER THE WEEKEND, BUT HAVE AGREED TO RESUME NORMAL WORK PENDING NEGOTIATIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 18-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV02729
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770134-0870

Format: TEL

From: TEL AVIV Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770445/aaaabmzj.tel

Line Count: 71 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 6e5d3aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION NEA

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 27-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:**

Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2770959 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: SUMMARY: CURRENT LABOR SITUATION

TAGS: ELAB, ECON, IS

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6e5d3aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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